

Docket No. 2003-051-TAP

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A tape guide mechanism in a storage device for
2 defining a tape path comprising:
3 a cartridge reel for supplying tape to a take-up
4 reel;
5 said cartridge reel being generally bisected by a
6 longitudinal axis of said tape path; and
7 said tape path being generally symmetrically
8 disposed about said axis.
- 1 2. The mechanism according to claim 1, further
2 comprising:
3 said tape path being generally U-shaped.
- 1 3. The mechanism according to claim 1, further
2 comprising:
3 a pair of read/write heads disposed symmetrically
4 about said axis for reading data from and writing data to
5 said tape.
- 1 4. The mechanism according to claim 1, further
2 comprising:
3 a single read/write head disposed along said axis
4 for reading data from and writing data to said tape.
- 1 5. The mechanism according to claim 1, further
2 comprising:

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3 a plurality of flanged rollers disposed
4 symmetrically about said axis for guiding said tape, said
5 plurality of flanged rollers being remotely located away
6 from said cartridge and take-up reels.

1 6. The mechanism according to claim 5, further
2 comprising:

3 said plurality of flanged rollers including a first
4 pair of flanged rollers located proximate to a first
5 read/write head and a second pair of flanged rollers
6 located proximate to a second read/write head.

1 7. The mechanism according to claim 6, further
2 comprising:

3 said first pair of flanged rollers being adjacent to
4 each other; and

5 said second pair of flanged rollers being adjacent
6 to each other.

1 8. The mechanism according to claim 5, further
2 comprising:

3 said plurality of flanged rollers being grooved.

1 9. The mechanism according to claim 1, further
2 comprising:

3 a non-flanged post guide being located proximate to
4 said take-up reel for increasing a length of said tape
5 path.

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1 10. The mechanism according to claim 9, further
2 comprising:

3 said post guide being non-spinning.

1 11. The mechanism according to claim 1, further
2 comprising:

3 said tape path including a first portion that is
4 generally parallel to said axis, a second portion that is
5 generally perpendicular to said axis, and a third portion
6 that is generally parallel to said axis.

1 12. A tape guide mechanism in a storage device for
2 defining a tape path comprising:

3 a cartridge reel for supplying tape to a take-up
4 reel;

5 a plurality of flanged guides located remotely from
6 said cartridge and take-up reels;

7 a non-flanged post guide located proximate to said
8 take-up reel for increasing a length of said tape path
9 and for permitting said plurality of flanged guides to be
10 located remotely from said cartridge and take-up reels;
11 and

12 wherein flanged guides are not located in proximity
13 to said cartridge or take-up reels.

1 13. The mechanism according to claim 12, further
2 comprising:

3 said cartridge reel being bisected by a longitudinal
4 axis of said tape path;

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5 a pair of read/write heads symmetrically located
6 about said axis;
7 said plurality of flanged guides including a first
8 pair of flanged guides located proximate to a first one
9 of said read/write heads and a second pair of flanged
10 guides located proximate to a second one of said
11 read/write head;
12 said tape path including a portion that starts at
13 said first pair of flanged guides and ends at said second
14 pair of flanged guides; and
15 said portion of said tape path being symmetrical
16 about said axis.

1 14. The mechanism according to claim 13, further
2 comprising:
3 said first pair of flanged guides being adjacent;
4 and
5 said second pair of flanged guides being adjacent.

1 15. The mechanism according to claim 12, further
2 comprising:
3 said non-flanged post guide being non-spinning.

1 16. The mechanism according to claim 12, further
2 comprising:
3 said plurality of flanged guides being grooved.

1 17. A tape guide mechanism in a storage device for
2 defining a tape path comprising:

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3 a cartridge reel for supplying tape to a take-up
4 reel;
5 a plurality of grooved flanged guides located
6 remotely from said cartridge and take-up reels;
7 a non-spinning non-flanged post guide located
8 proximate to said take-up reel for increasing a length of
9 said tape path and for permitting said plurality of
10 flanged guides to be located remotely from said cartridge
11 and take-up reels;
12 wherein flanged guides are not located in proximity
13 to said cartridge or take-up reels;
14 said cartridge reel being bisected by a longitudinal
15 axis of said tape path;
16 a pair of read/write heads symmetrically located
17 about said axis;
18 said plurality of flanged guides including a first
19 pair of adjacent flanged guides located proximate to a
20 first one of said read/write heads and a second pair of
21 adjacent flanged guides located proximate to a second one
22 of said read/write head;
23 said tape path including a portion that starts at
24 said first pair of flanged guides and ends at said second
25 pair of flanged guides; and
26 said portion of said tape path being symmetrical
27 about said axis.

1 18. A tape guide mechanism in a storage device for
2 defining a tape path comprising:
3 a cartridge reel for supplying tape to a take-up
4 reel;

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5 said cartridge reel being bisected by a longitudinal
6 axis of said tape path;
7 said tape path being generally U-shaped and
8 symmetrically disposed about said axis;
9 a pair of read/write heads disposed symmetrically
10 about said axis for reading data from and writing data to
11 said tape;
12 a plurality of flanged rollers disposed
13 symmetrically about said axis for guiding said tape, said
14 plurality of flanged rollers being located remotely away
15 from said cartridge and take-up reels;
16 said plurality of flanged rollers including a first
17 pair of adjacent, grooved, and flanged rollers located
18 proximate to a first one of said pair read/write heads
19 and a second pair of adjacent, grooved, and flanged
20 rollers located proximate to a second one of said pair of
21 read/write heads;
22 a non-spinning, non-flanged post guide being located
23 proximate to said take-up reel for increasing a length of
24 said tape;
25 a first one of said first pair of rollers being
26 located proximate to said first one of said pair of heads
27 and a second one of said first pair of rollers being
28 located remotely away from said first one of said pair of
29 heads; and
30 a first one of said second pair of rollers being
31 located proximate to said second one of said pair of
32 heads and a second one of said second pair of rollers
33 being located remotely away from said second one of said
34 pair of heads.